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General
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Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you a letter dated 6 January 2012 from Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, transmitting the communiqué of the 306th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the strategic concept for future operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 6 January 2012 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to bring to your attention the conclusions reached at the 306th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 5 January 2012, which was devoted to the consideration of the situation in Somalia, with particular emphasis on the Strategic Concept for future operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

As you are aware, and as part of the preparations of the Strategic Concept, a joint African Union-United Nations technical assessment mission undertook, in the course of December 2011, extensive consultations with the troop-contributing countries to AMISOM and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, as well as field visits within Somalia itself. The Strategic Concept was further reviewed by the Chiefs of Defence Staff and Ministers of Defence of the AMISOM troop-contributing countries and Ethiopia, as chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), during their meeting of 4 January 2012, in Addis Ababa.

At the meeting referred to above, the Peace and Security Council endorsed the Strategic Concept, which notably provides for the following:

(i) Increase in the level of United Nations-supported AMISOM uniformed personnel from 12,000 to 17,731, including 5,700 from the Djiboutian contingent and the rehatted Kenyan troops, as well as an AMISOM police component;

(ii) Deployment by Burundi and Uganda of additional troops to reach the currently United Nations-authorized strength of 12,000, with the understanding that the utilization of these additional troops will be determined on the basis of the needs in the main liberated areas;

(iii) Insertion of AMISOM troops in areas liberated with the support of Ethiopia, in view of the urgency of the stated intent of Ethiopia to withdraw from those areas;

(iv) Extension of the AMISOM area of responsibility by fast-tracking the insertion of AMISOM troops in all the liberated areas;

(v) Provision of the required force enablers and multipliers, as well as logistical support to other components of AMISOM;

(vi) The enhancement of the Transitional Federal Government security and allied forces to enable and empower them to play an increased role in the implementation of the Strategic Concept.

It is the considered view of the African Union that the implementation of this Strategic Concept will go a long way in helping us to improve security in Somalia and further peace and reconciliation in the country, by facilitating the implementation of the Kampala Accord and the Mogadishu Road Map, and enhance regional stability.

Accordingly, the Peace and Security Council requested the Security Council to expeditiously consider and authorize the support required for the immediate implementation of this Strategic Concept. This will enable us to take advantage of the unique opportunity created as a result of the gains recorded by the forces of the

Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and those of AMISOM, as well as of the ongoing military operations conducted against Al-Shabaab elsewhere in the country.

While the Somali leaders and other stakeholders have primary responsibility for the restoration of lasting peace, security and reconciliation in their country, experience has made it abundantly clear that they cannot succeed without adequate assistance from the international community. The United Nations, in general, and the Security Council, in particular, have a central role to play in this respect. It is the earnest hope of the region, which, through IGAD, has demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to addressing the prevailing situation in Somalia, and the African Union that the Security Council will respond positively to the request made by the Peace and Security Council.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express the sincere appreciation of the African Union for the cooperation and support extended by the United Nations Secretariat throughout the process of developing this Strategic Concept. The fact that the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat jointly elaborated this document, based on a thorough and objective assessment of the situation on the ground, bears testimony to the strength and depth of our partnership on peace and security issues. I have no doubt that you and the other relevant United Nations senior officials will spare no efforts in mobilizing the necessary support for the implementation of the Strategic Concept, as endorsed by the Peace and Security Council.

I am forwarding, herewith attached, the Peace and Security Council communiqué (see enclosure). I would be most grateful if you could urgently circulate this letter and its enclosure to the Security Council members, for their information and action as appropriate, as they prepare for the planned debate on Somalia on 11 January 2012 and for the subsequent adoption of a resolution on this matter.

(*Signed*) Jean **Ping**

Enclosure

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 306th meeting held on 5 January 2012, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia:

Council:

1. **Notes** the recommendations made by the meeting of the Ministers of Defence of the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other interested countries, held in Addis Ababa on 4 January 2012, regarding the Strategic Concept for future AMISOM operations [CDS-Min Def/TCCs/AMISOM.REC.(1)], as well as the statements made by the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, representatives of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, Uganda, as AMISOM TCC, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Somalia, Denmark, as co-Chair of the AU Partner Group, Italy, as co-Chair of the IGAD Partner Forum, and the European Union (EU);

2. **Recalls** its earlier communiqués on the situation in Somalia, in particular communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.3(CCLVIII), adopted at its 258th meeting held on 20 January 2011, in which it decided to renew the mandate of AMISOM for an additional period of 12 months. Council also recalls its communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(CCCII) and press statement PSC/PR/BR.(CCCV) issued at its 302nd and 305th meetings held on 2 and 22 December 2011, respectively, on the draft Strategic Concept for future operations;

3. **Endorses** the Strategic Concept for future AMISOM operations as a planning tool for enhancing the strength of AMISOM and furthering the gains made on the ground, as reviewed and recommended by the Ministers of Defence of the TCCs to AMISOM and other interested countries, including:

(i) the increase of the level of UN-supported AMISOM uniformed personnel from 12,000 to 17,731, including 5,700 from the Djiboutian contingent and the re-hatted Kenyan troops, as well as AMISOM police component,

(ii) the deployment by Burundi and Uganda of additional troops to reach the currently UN-authorized strength of 12,000, with the understanding that the utilization of these additional troops will be determined on the basis of the needs in the main liberated areas,

(iii) the insertion of AMISOM troops in areas liberated with the support of Ethiopia, in view of the urgency of the stated intent of Ethiopia to withdraw from those areas,

(iv) the extension of AMISOM's area of responsibility by fast tracking the insertion of AMISOM troops in all the liberated areas,

(v) the provision of the required force enablers and multipliers, as well as logistical support to other components of AMISOM, and

(vi) the enhancement of the TFG security and allied forces, to enable and empower them to play an increased role in the implementation of the Strategic Concept;

4. **Urges** the UN Security Council to expeditiously consider and authorize the support required for the immediate implementation of the Strategic Concept, in order to take advantage of the unique opportunity created by the operations being conducted against Al Shabaab in different parts of Somalia, thereby consolidating the security gains and moving the peace process forward;

5. **Requests** the Commission to accelerate the preparation and consultations on the follow-on planning requirements, including the elaboration and early finalization of a new AMISOM Concept of Operations (CONOPS) to adequately address all relevant issues, such as command and control, liaison and coordination and troops-to-task per sector;

6. **Appreciates** the continuing support of the European Union (EU) in the implementation of the mandate of AMISOM and requests the EU to make available, through the Africa Peace Facility and any other appropriate instruments, the necessary funds to cater for the payment of allowances for 17,731 troops. Council **also appeals** to other AU partners to provide the necessary financial support for the implementation of the Strategic Concept;

7. **Welcomes** the initiative of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to convene a special Summit on Somalia in London, on 23 February 2012, and **looks forward** to its positive impact in terms of the enhancement of the international community's support to the political, security, humanitarian and developmental effort in Somalia;

8. **Welcomes** the progress made in the constitution-making process, in the context of the Garowe Conference in Puntland. At the same time, Council **calls on** the leadership of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), as well as all other Somali stakeholders, to demonstrate the required maturity and determination in the implementation of the Kampala Accord of June 2011 and the Political Roadmap of September 2011, to urgently resolve the current crisis within the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP), with the support of the AU, IGAD and the UN;

9. **Reiterates** AU's determination to take all necessary measures against all spoilers, both internal and external, who are engaged in actions aimed at undermining the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, as well as the efforts of AMISOM;

10. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit this communiqué and the Strategic Concept for future AMISOM operations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as to the other AU partners, to seek their support and cooperation, and to report to Council on the outcomes of its requests, particularly with regard to the resolution on Somalia to be adopted by the Security Council;

11. **Decides** to renew the mandate of AMISOM for a further period of 12 months with effect from 16 January 2012;

12. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.